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2021 State of Sex Education Legislative Overview

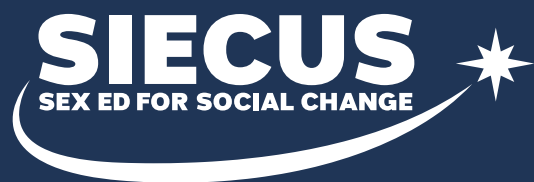


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Introduction

As 2021 state legislative sessions begin to convene, sex education advocates face significant challenges in advancing comprehensive sex education nationwide.

In light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, which has killed over 375,000 people across the United States to date and brought an onslaught of additional challenges, the education system has been uniquely impacted. In addition to decisions regarding when and how to open schools, educators and students alike have had to adapt to online learning environments. With this shift, subjects such as sex education have [reportedly](#) taken lower priority when compared to core subjects. Despite these limitations, several state legislatures will consider legislation in 2021 that has the potential to impact the ability of young people to receive advanced sex education and to access reproductive and sexual health services.

While these changes will largely happen at the state level nationwide, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris will have a significant opportunity to advance sexual and reproductive rights for young people for years to come. These efforts must also account for the ways in which the Trump administration failed to adequately address these critical issues. The new administration must implement safeguards to strengthen federal sex education streams such as the [Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program \(TPPP\)](#) and eliminate funding for detrimental abstinence-only-until-marriage “Sexual Risk Avoidance Education” programs. ■



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2020 Legislative wrap up

The [2020 Sex Ed State Legislative Mid-Year Report](#) identified 81 bills related to sex education that were introduced in state legislative sessions. Of these bills, four bills were enacted across two states:



In Virginia, [HB 1336](#) was enacted to mandate the Board of Education to develop standards of learning and guidelines for K-12 family life education curriculum. Two additional bills, [HB 134](#) and [SB 186](#), required the Department of Education to establish guidelines for individualized education program (IEP) teams. These guidelines are to be followed to ensure that young people with disabilities receive instruction on sexual health, self-restraint and protection, and respect for personal privacy and boundaries in an age and developmentally appropriate manner.



In Washington, [SB 5395](#) was enacted into law to mandate comprehensive sex education in all public schools, marking a monumental legislative win for sex education advocates across the state. However, the passage of this bill was contested through a statewide ballot measure, as discussed later within this publication.

Since then, one bill has passed concerning sex education.



In Vermont, [H 663](#) was approved by Governor Phil Scott in October 2020. House Bill 663 requires public secondary schools to make condoms available to students and requires the Department of Health, in conjunction with health care providers and insurers, to provide information to young people concerning contraceptive access and coverage. Further, the Agency of Education

and Department of Health are required to report on their efforts to support school districts in providing comprehensive health education.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, state legislatures were forced to shift their attention to coronavirus relief and transmission prevention efforts and the majority of states adjourned early. Many legislatures are [continuing to grapple](#) with how to move forward with the 2021 state legislative session. ■

Impact of the 2020 general election

Presidential election

The new Biden-Harris administration has a significant opportunity to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights for all people—particularly young people. The Biden-Harris administration's [platform](#) highlighted the need to expand access to health care and address health inequities including the importance of repealing the Hyde Amendment—the discriminatory ruling that [prevents](#) Medicaid from covering abortion care and primarily inhibits low-income people and people of color from accessing this essential service. Further, the new administration has highlighted the importance of codifying Roe v. Wade, reversing the Trump Administration's [domestic gag rule](#) and [global gag rule](#), and restoring the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive mandate. Young people are often left out of conversations surrounding the right to bodily autonomy, [including the right to access safe and legal abortion](#), and the administration must consider the needs

of them when addressing disparities concerning access to this critical care.

These top-line priorities have been highlighted by leading reproductive and sexual health, rights, and justice organizations, including SIECUS, within the [Blueprint for Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice](#). This proactive policy agenda outlines the executive steps the new administration must take, and has been further refined to offer top executive action priorities within the [first 100 days](#) of taking office to ensure that all people have the freedom and ability to exercise total autonomy over their bodies. The Blueprint is guided by five leading principles including:

- Ensure Sexual and Reproductive Health Care is Accessible to All People.
- Ensure Discriminatory Barriers in Health Care are Eliminated.
- Ensure Research and Innovation Advance Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Now and in the Future.

- Ensure Health, Rights, Justice, and Wellness for All Communities.
- Ensure Judges and Executive Officials Advance Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice.

To end barriers to care for young people, the Blueprint calls upon policymakers to increase access to both respectful and confidential reproductive and sexual health services. Further, it calls for increased support for access to education and services for sexual and reproductive health care, including increasing funding for medically accurate and science based programs that support information, education, and access to care. To achieve this, the Administration must support Congressional efforts to create new funding streams for comprehensive sex education, eliminate funding for harmful abstinence-only-until-marriage programs such as the "Sexual Risk Avoidance Education" program, and pass the [Real Education for Healthy Youth Act \(REHYA\)](#) and [Youth Access to Sexual Health Services Act \(YASHS\)](#).

By undertaking this proactive agenda, the Biden-Harris administration has the opportunity to not only undo harmful regulations the Trump administration has imposed over the past four years, but advance long overdue policies that ensure *all* people have the ability to maintain their sexual and reproductive health and determine if, when, and how they parent.

Federal

At least 71 new members have been elected to Congress, with nine new members in the Senate and 62 in the House. The future of sex education nationwide heavily depends on the ability of lawmakers to champion proactive legislation, and the new face of Congress offers unique opportunities to make sex education for all a reality.

House

The House of Representatives has welcomed a diverse new pool of lawmakers, many of which bring years of experience in advocacy and health care to Congress. Notably, the 2020 election has resulted in more historic firsts in Congress, including the election of Rep. Marilyn Strickland (WA-10), the first Korean American woman elected to Congress and first Black member of Washington state's

federal delegation, Rep. Cori Bush (MO-01), the first Black woman elected from Missouri, and Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15), the first openly gay Afro-Latino elected to Congress.

Among the many notable elected officials, the following members have demonstrated their exceptional commitment to advancing legislation that will further increase access to sexual and reproductive health care services for all in the 117th Congress.

- **Representative Nikema Williams** (GA-05): Having served as both a Georgia State Senator and Vice President of Public Policy at Planned Parenthood Southeast, Rep. Williams brings a deep understanding of reproductive freedom and background in civil rights advocacy to Congress. She worked to oppose HB 481, an extreme abortion bill that was ultimately struck down by a federal judge.
- **Representative Cori Bush** (MO-01): Rep. Bush's platform centers a reproductive justice framework to ensure all people, and particularly low-income women, women of color, and transgender people have access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare. In her campaign platform, Rep. Bush emphasized the importance of education in advancing

reproductive health care. Further, Rep. Bush has highlighted her support for initiatives that work to fund the Title X program and other issues pertaining to reproductive health, including access to contraceptives, STI testing, and abortion care.

Further, at least seven incoming members—including Rep. Jake Achincloss (MA-04), Rep. Jamaal Bowman (NY-16), Rep. Teresa Fernandez (NM-03), Rep. Sara Jacobs (CA-53), Rep. Kai Kahele (HI-02), Rep. Mondaire Jones (NY-17), Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15)—have centered the urgent need to repeal the Hyde Amendment within their platforms to ensure that those enrolled in Medicaid have the ability to access abortion care. The positions of these newly elected officials add to the [increasing pressure](#) from Congressional members to overturn the discriminatory amendment. These incoming members and more have amplified the critical need to codify *Roe v. Wade* and oppose efforts to overturn the historic ruling to ensure the procedure remains legal. While important, *Roe* far from guarantees access to abortion care given the [strict regulations](#) nationwide that severely complicate access to the procedure. These roadblocks, often consisting of burdensome wait periods, state mandated counseling, gestational limits,

and parental requirements continue to put access to abortion care further out of reach for millions of Americans. Young people are further impacted by regulatory efforts to limit access to abortion care, as [six states](#) (Arkansas, Connecticut, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, and South Carolina) prohibit discussion of abortion as an outcome of pregnancy within sex education in addition to limitations to the procedure.

While these members bring a progressive agenda to Congress, their ability to advance key priorities will be increasingly challenged due to the changing nature of chamber control. While liberal lawmakers continue to hold a majority in the House, their previous 35-seat majority has [narrowed significantly](#) and may result in new challenges in advancing progressive legislation related to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Senate

Following the Georgia runoff election, the Senate will have a new majority leader and committee leadership. Multiple new members elected to the Senate have a history of advancing reproductive rights and will play a critical role in moving the chamber forward in advancing progressive legislation during the 117th Congress.

Among incoming Senators, the following members have demonstrated a particular interest in advancing comprehensive sex education legislation.

- **Senator Raphael Warnock** (GA): Sen. Raphael Warnock brings decades of advocacy for sex education and reproductive health and rights to Congress, having served as a teen peer counselor in high school and authored curriculum for training for Georgia teen peer counselors during his time at the Georgia Department of Health. Further, Sen. Warnock has worked to increase contraceptive access, and has highlighted his dedication to protecting access to affordable reproductive health care services. He will also oppose efforts to defund reproductive health care providers and will confirm judicial nominees that will uphold *Roe v. Wade*. His platform also emphasizes his dedication to address biases in our health care systems that result in discriminatory outcomes, including the disproportionately high maternal mortality rate among Black women.
- **Senator John Hickenlooper** (CO): Sen. John Hickenlooper brings strong support for comprehensive sex

education to Congress. As the previous Governor of Colorado, Sen. Hickenlooper signed in [HB 1032](#), legislation that now mandates comprehensive instruction if sex education is taught. During his tenure as Governor, he also oversaw the Colorado Family Planning Initiative which helped over 30,000 young women gain access to contraceptives and is [cited](#) for helping reduce unintended pregnancies across the state.

With this shift, many advocates are hopeful that key progress can be made to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights.

State

State legislators and governors have the power to introduce, pass, and sign state legislation that impacts the quality of sex education young people receive.

As a recap, the 2018 midterm elections resulted in major shifts at the state level. Seven gubernatorial seats held by anti-abortion governors were won by pro-choice candidates, and pro-choice legislators gained control over six state legislative chambers, increasing their control in 37 legislative chambers as compared to 62 chambers controlled by anti-abortion legislators. In addition, four states where anti-abortion

politicians held unilateral control over both state legislative chambers and the governorship were dismantled, and some states even saw pro-choice politicians elected to majority control over the state legislature and governor's office.

The 2020 election did not result in major shifts with legislatures that are proactive toward comprehensive sex education. Several new members in New Hampshire legislature appear to be hostile to abortion rights, shifting control of both houses to anti-abortion majorities. As a result of this shift, proponents of sex education in New Hampshire may face difficulty in advancing legislation pertaining to sexual and reproductive health and rights in the state.

Of the eleven gubernatorial elections that took place, Montana's election of Greg Gianforte was the only one that resulted in a change in party control. Governor Gianforte may pose a significant barrier to advancing sex education legislation in Montana. During his time in Congress, Gianforte [opposed measures](#) pertaining to LGBTQ+ equality, and [supported legislation](#) that would establish fetal-personhood, further undermining reproductive autonomy. In addition, it has [been reported](#) that Gianforte's family foundation has backed

several discriminatory organizations that oppose abortion and LGBTQ+ rights.

While the state legislatures remain mostly unchanged from 2019, newly elected sex education champions still have the power to increase support for progressive sex education legislation in their state.

State ballot initiatives



Colorado - Colorado voters defeated [Proposition 115](#), a measure that if successful would have prohibited abortion after 22 weeks of pregnancy. Access for this essential service is critical for all Colorado residents, and is particularly important for young people, who are [more likely](#) than older adults to obtain a later abortion. This occurs for a [variety of reasons](#), including fear of parental reaction and denial of the pregnancy.



Washington - Washington's successful [comprehensive sex education mandate](#) was contested by those wishing to limit sex education curriculum. As a result, the question of if young people would be taught comprehensive sex education was

left to be decided by Washington residents through [Referendum 90](#), which appeared on the November ballot. The measure was approved by a majority of Washington residents, demonstrating the overwhelming support for young people receiving comprehensive sex education regardless of their zip code. ■

Looking ahead in 2021

The Census and redistricting

Data from the 2020 Census will shape the way in which young people, and particularly marginalized young people, have the ability to access sexual and reproductive health care services, information, and education over the next decade. States use census data to redraw political districts for local, state, and federal representation. Unfortunately, the 2020 Census faced significant challenges, due to the [coronavirus pandemic](#) and [political efforts](#) to distort the count.

The accuracy of the count is critical, as over [\\$1.5 trillion](#) in federal funding is allocated to states based on the census count, including discretionary adolescent sexual health programs such as the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) and the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP). Alarming, communities prioritized for federal support often overlap with communities that are deemed “hard to

count” based upon historically low census response rates. These undercounted population groups are often made up of communities of color, low-income households, children, and immigrants. If the 2020 census results in an under-count, these communities could experience decades-long underfunding, exacerbating significant barriers to sexual and reproductive health care and education.

In addition to federal funding allocations, census results also provide the population data used to draw state and congressional legislative districts to ensure equal representation at the local, state, and federal levels. Despite [numerous states](#) having independent redistricting boards, many states continue to allow this process to be overseen by state legislatures. This can allow for those in political control to manipulate the districts in their favor to increase the power of their respective political party. Known as **gerrymandering**, this practice has resulted in an average of

[59 congressional seats](#) going to members that would not have been elected based on statewide voter support alone during recent elections.

Americans continue to await the results of the 2020 Census count to understand the impact that the count will have on our political representation in government, and on funding for critical sexual and reproductive health programs around the country.

2021 State legislative calendar

Forty-six state legislatures hold regular sessions annually. The other four states—Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Texas—meet in odd-numbered years. Nine state legislatures have full-time legislators, meaning that the legislature meets throughout the year. All other legislators are considered part-time as they only meet for a portion of the year. Below is the 2021 state legislative calendar.

State session chart

*Date subject to change	Convenes	Adjourns
Alabama	2/2/21	5/18/21
Alaska	1/19/21	4/19/21
Arizona	1/11/21	4/23/21
Arkansas	1/11/21	3/12/21
California	12/7/20	9/10/21
Colorado	1/13/21	5/13/21
Connecticut	1/6/21	6/9/21
Delaware	1/12/21	6/30/21
District of Columbia	1/2/21	12/31/21
Florida	3/2/21	4/30/21
Georgia	1/11/21	4/2/21
Hawaii	1/20/21	5/9/21
Idaho	1/11/21	4/2/21
Illinois	1/13/21	*
Indiana	1/11/21	4/29/21
Iowa	1/11/21	4/30/21
Kansas	1/11/21	5/14/21
Kentucky	1/5/21	3/30/21
Louisiana	4/12/21	6/10/21
Maine	12/2/20	6/16/21
Maryland	1/13/21	4/12/21
Massachusetts	1/6/21	*
Michigan	1/13/21	*
Minnesota	1/5/21	5/17/21
Mississippi	1/5/21	3/15/21
Missouri	1/6/21	5/30/21
Montana	1/4/21	4/28/21

*Date subject to change	Convenes	Adjourns
Nebraska	1/6/21	6/10/21
Nevada	2/1/21	6/1/21
New Hampshire	1/6/21	6/28/21
New Jersey	1/12/21	*
New Mexico	1/19/21	3/20/21
New York	1/6/21	*
North Carolina	1/13/21	7/30/21
North Dakota	1/5/21	4/28/21
Ohio	1/4/21	12/31/21
Oklahoma	2/1/21	5/28/21
Oregon	1/19/21	6/28/21
Pennsylvania	1/5/21	12/15/21
Puerto Rico	1/11/21	*
Rhode Island	1/5/21	*
South Carolina	1/12/21	*
South Dakota	1/12/21	3/29/21
Tennessee	1/12/21	5/6/21
Texas	1/12/21	5/31/21
Utah	1/19/21	3/5/21
Vermont	1/6/21	5/15/21
Virginia	1/13/21	2/27/21
Virgin Islands	1/11/21	*
Washington	1/11/21	4/25/21
West Virginia	1/13/21	4/10/21
Wisconsin	1/12/21	*
Wyoming	1/12/21	3/4/21

* = Legislature meets throughout year

State legislation to watch in 2021

During each state legislative cycle, SIECUS monitors a wide range of bills that could potentially advance or restrict access to comprehensive sex education or reproductive and sexual health services for young people. This includes topics such as sex education, parental consent, access to abortion, LGBTQ rights, cultural responsiveness, consent, healthy relationships, sexual abuse, violence, and prevention, and teacher training.

Due to the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic, many state legislatures have [adjusted their legislative sessions](#). One way in which this has manifested is limiting the number of bills policymakers are able to introduce during the 2021 session. As a result, it has been observed that legislation concerning sex education is not on the forefront of many legislative priorities. Despite this, SIECUS has identified notable trends in related topics that have the potential to limit or advance access to more comprehensive sex education and reproductive and sexual health services for young people. While not an exhaustive list of the bills and topics being tracked, the following exemplify state-level legislative trends being introduced in the 2021 session:

Classroom content/instruction



Georgia [HB 54](#) would require sex education and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention

instruction to include instruction on the best practices and risk associated with the use of tampons.



Missouri [HB 225](#) would require each school district to provide period products to students free of charge.

Further, the bill would strike legislative text that inhibits reproductive health care professionals who provide abortion care to provide sex education curriculum or instruction.



New Jersey [S 3206](#) would require schools to teach anti-bias instruction within their health education courses. Such instruction would explore personal and cultural identity and promote diversity,

equity, and inclusion on topics related to gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and religious tolerance.



Oklahoma [SB 89](#) would require all public schools to provide health education.

While the bill does not specify sexuality education, health literacy standards must include the ability to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. Further, curriculum must include instruction on healthy relationships and responsible decision making.



South Carolina [H 3424](#) would require health education to include instruction on teen dating violence.

Consent to care

District of Columbia [B 23-0171](#) would permit minors of any age to consent to health services concerning the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of HIV or AIDS.



Kentucky [BR 376](#) is a **regressive** bill that imposes further barriers to minors obtaining abortion care. It requires additional requirements for parents and guardians when providing their consent for a minor to have an abortion. It also requires additional considerations when a minor petitions the court to obtain an abortion without parental consent.

Abortion



Missouri [HB 468](#) is a **regressive** bill that would prohibit “dismemberment” abortion.



New Jersey [A 4848](#) and [S 3030](#), known as the Reproductive Freedom Act, would establish the fundamental right of every person to choose or refuse contraception or sterilization and choose whether

to carry a pregnancy or to have an abortion. In support of this right, the legislation would require insurance to cover the cost of both abortion care and contraceptives. The bill further prohibits any entity from denying these fundamental rights and removes current restrictions to care.



South Carolina [H 3163](#) and [S 399](#) are **regressive** bills that would prohibit abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected. Further, [H 3512](#) would prohibit abortion based on if the fetus has a fetal anomaly.



Texas [HB 69](#) is a **regressive** bill that would prohibit abortion after 12 weeks post fertilization. Further, [HB 279](#) would prohibit abortion altogether.



Washington [HB 1008](#) is a **regressive** bill that would prohibit abortion on the basis of if a fetus has been diagnosed or may be diagnosed with Down syndrome.

LGBTQ rights

Several states have introduced legislation to both advance and restrict young LGBTQ people from accessing necessary medical care. **Alabama** [HB 1](#), **Missouri** [HB 33](#), **Texas** [HB 68](#) are **harmful** bills that would inhibit health care professionals from providing gender affirming care to minors. Further, **Texas** [HB 68](#) would classify providing gender affirming care as child abuse. However, several bills, including **Missouri** [SB 207](#) and **Texas** [HB 407](#), [HB 560](#) and [SB 97](#) would advance rights for LGBTQ youth by prohibiting conversion therapy. ■

2021 State advocacy tools

As states resume their legislative sessions this January, advocates will have new opportunities to advance conversations concerning sex education and its ability to shift cultural conversations on issues such as gender equity, access to reproductive health care services, racial justice, and LGBTQ equality.

These conversations centering the ability to advance sex education for social change can also highlight its power to address topics such as consent, healthy relationships, and personal autonomy. While current conversations concerning education are rightfully centered on the impact of the coronavirus, the need for comprehensive sex education has not disappeared. Young people continue to need medically accurate, inclusive, evidence based, age-appropriate, and trauma informed instruction that ensures all youth have the ability to make informed decisions about their reproductive and sexual health and future. SIECUS encourages advocates to take action using

the following tools to advance sex education policies in your state and community.

- **Sex education at home** - With the inability of many schools nationwide to prioritize adequate sex education during the coronavirus pandemic, parents and caregivers are finding themselves responsible for ensuring their children are receiving sufficient instruction. [These online sex education resources](#) can aid in providing this instruction to young people of all ages.
- **Using outside speakers to provide sex education** - [Using Outside Speakers to Provide Sex Education](#) is a tool to be

used by sex educators and school district administrators to determine:

- What sex education best prepares students to make informed decisions about their sexual health over their lifetimes
- Who should provide that sex education
- How to select and vet outside speakers: what to look for, and what to avoid
- How to work with outside speakers and ensure adherence to state and local laws and guidelines.

- **Community Action Toolkit** - The [Community Action Toolkit \(CAT\)](#) gives advocates the tools needed to become knowledgeable about sex education, build support in states or communities, implement sound policies, and implement or defend effective sex education programs that support and affirm young people's right to honest information. The Toolkit is designed to serve as a resource for all advocates: students, parents, teachers, school administrators, health professionals, youth serving professionals, policymakers, and concerned community members. This resource provides advocates with the tools needed to navigate existing policy landscapes and successfully advance sex education policies where the best opportunities exist—at the national, state, local, and district levels.

- **Model Sex Education Legislation** - In 2017, SIECUS, along with Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Advocates for Youth, and the American Civil Liberties Union, released the updated [Sex Education Model Legislation](#). This model bill is intended to serve as a guide to amend and enhance state-level, school-based sex education statutes.

To better meet the needs of all young people, this legislation is routinely revisited by advocates. Please reach out to SIECUS at info@siecus.org for further information regarding the Model Sex Education Legislation.

- **National Standards for Sex Education** - For state advocates who are working to improve existing sex education curricula in their schools, the Future of Sex Education (FoSE) Initiative—a partnership between Advocates for Youth, Answer, and SIECUS - developed the National Sexuality Education Standards: Core Content and Skills, K-12. In 2020, the [National Sex Education Standards: Core Content and Skills, K-12, Second Edition](#) was released to build upon the principal publication to provide updated information concerning:

- advancements in medical technologies;
- developments in communications platforms, including social media, and the increasing use and impact of technology within relationships;
- increased focus on bodily autonomy, consent, and sexual agency;
- updated laws and policies on such

topics as bullying, sexting, and access to and availability of sexual and reproductive healthcare;

- continual evolution in language related to gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and sexual identity;
- inclusion of power and privilege, conscious and unconscious bias, intersectionality, and covert and overt discrimination, and the principles of reproductive justice, racial justice, social justice, and equity;
- emphasis on prevention, recognition, and intervention related to sex trafficking and sexual exploitation; and
- impact of youth having increased availability and access to sexually explicit media.

The goal of the *National Sexuality Education Standards (Second Edition)* is to provide clear, consistent, and straightforward guidance on the essential, minimum, core content and skills needed for sex education that is age-appropriate for students in grades K-12 to be effective. Specifically, the National Sexuality Education Standards were developed to

address the inconsistent implementation of sex education nationwide and the limited time allocated to teaching the topic. This is a vital resource for school boards, school administrators, and educators seeking to improve the content of their sex education curricula to better meet the needs of their students.

- **Professional Learning Standards for Sex Education** - The goal of the [Professional Learning Standards for Sex Education \(PLSSE\)](#) is to provide guidance to school administrators and classroom educators about the content, skills, and professional disposition needed to implement sex education effectively. The PLSSE can also help educators stay up-to-date on content and teaching methods as both information related to sex and research on best practices frequently change.
- **Technical assistance** - SIECUS' policy team is available to offer technical assistance for all types of policy activity and engagement at all levels of government—federal, state, and local. Looking for assistance? [Contact us!](#) ■



Conclusion

2021 offers unique opportunities for advocates nationwide to advance legislation related to sex education, sexual and reproductive health services, and work against restrictive measures.

Despite these opportunities, continuous advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels are necessary to make sex education for all a reality. Far too many young people continue to receive lackluster sex education, if any at all, that fails to provide them with accurate information and perpetuates harmful myths and stereotypes relating to sexuality and reproduction. With the work of advocates at all levels, we are continuing to push the needle forward in ensuring young people receive the comprehensive sex education they deserve. The Biden-Harris administration marks a new era in which

the federal government has the opportunity to reverse the extensive harms done under the previous administration to limit access to sexual and reproductive health care and education, and be trailblazers in removing all unnecessary barriers to this information, care, and education. ■

For additional assistance with advancing sex education in your community during the 2021 legislative session, please contact the team at SIECUS by emailing info@siecus.org.



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